

Message Text

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54

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

L-03 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 095760

R 011117Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9708

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, LA

SUBJECT: LAO-FRENCH AVIATION AGREEMENT

REF: VIENTIANE A-65, JUNE 3, 1974

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF AIR FRANCE AND ROYAL AIR LAO REACHED AGREEMENT IN VIENTIANE JUNE 28 ON MAJOR ITEMS OF AN AIR FRANCE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR RAL. AIR FRANCE WILL LEASE A CARAVELLE TO RAL AT ONE KIP PER YEAR FOR THREE YEARS, WITH AIRCREWS BEING SUPPLIED BY AIR FRANCE AND PAID BY RAL. RAL WILL PURCHASE THREE DC-4'S FROM AIR FRANCE, TWO OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN SERVICE WITH AIR MADAGASCAR AND THE OTHER WITH THE FRENCH POSTAL SERVICE.

2. THE CARAVELLE WILL BE AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER AND IS SLATED FOR USE ON RAL'S HANOI AND PEKING RUNS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY WILL ACCEPT RAL'S USE OF ANY AIRCREWS EXCEPT FOR PERSONS FROM THE U.S., SOUTH VIETNAM, OR TAIWAN. RAL'S DIRECTOR GENERAL PRINCE PANYA SOUVANNA

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PHOUMA HAS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, THAT A

CARAVELLE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY OPERATING ON HANOI'S 6600-FOOT RUNWAY.

3. THE DC-4'S WILL BE USED ON INTERNAL FLIGHTS. THE FIRST ONE IS DUE IN VIENTIANE BY JULY 15 AND THE SECOND BY THE END OF AUGUST. AIRCREWS ARE BEING RECRUITED LOCALLY.

4. A FORMAL AGREEMENT COVERING THE AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS AND A POOLING ARRANGEMENT ON VIENTIANE-BANGKOK FLIGHTS IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED WHEN RAL PRESIDENT NGON SANANIKONE VISITS PARIS IN AUGUST.

CHAPMAN

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